

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 AID-20 CU-04 DRC-01 /149 W

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R 201428Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9505

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 7782

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CI

SUBJ: CHILEAN DIPLOMATIC MISSION

REF: STATE 186008

1. CHILEAN AMBASSADOR TO COLOMBIA, HERNAN GUTIERREZ LEYTON, AND THE CULTURAL ATTACHE EFRAIN BARQUERO ISSUED STATEMENTS OF RESIGNATION ON SEPTEMBER 13.

2. IN A TERSE STATEMENT TO THE PRESS GUTIERREZ SAID, "IN THESE DIFFICULT HOURS FOR MY COUNTRY I HAVE FOLLOWED THE VOICE OF MY CONSCIENCE; THE PATH I MUST TAKE IS CLEAR..."

3. DESCRIBED BY THE BOGOTA PRESS AS A POET, BARQUERO MADE AN EMOTIONAL STATEMENT IN WHICH HE SAID HE WOULD RETURN TO CHILE TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE THE PEOPLE EVEN IF HE HAD TO DIE TO DEFEND THE MEMORY OF ALLENDE. "MY RESIGNATION IS A MODEST BUT DEEPLY FELT POSTHUMOUS ACT TO MY GREAT FALLEN PRESIDENT; IT IS A FLOWER THAT I SEND FROM AFAR TO THAT TOMB WHEREIN MORTAL BONE AND FLESH DO NOT RESIDE, BUT RATHER LIGHT, THE PUREST LIGHT THAT OUR LAND HAS PRODUCED. MY RESIGNATION IS ALSO A SMALL TRIBUTE TO THAT FINE AND GENEROUS WOMAN, TENCHA, WOMAN OF STEEL AND GREAT COMPANION IN WHOSE HEART DWELL THE GREATEST VIRTUES OF

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THE PEOPLE. FINALLY, MY RESIGNATION EXPRESSES MY STRONG PROTEST

AGAINST THE BARBAROUS ACTS THAT HAVE BEEN COMMITTED IN CHILE..."

4. GUTIERREZ REMAINS ON THE JOB DESPITE HIS STATEMENT, BUT HE MADE PLAIN AT THE CHILEAN ARMY DAY CEREMONY ON SEPTEMBER 19 THAT HE WOULD BE LEAVING SOON FOR CHILE. THE CEREMONY, WHICH IS HELD ANNUALLY TO COMMEMORATE THE PARTICIPATION OF THE CHILEAN ARMY IN THE FOUNDING OF THE COLOMBIAN MILITARY ACADEMY, WAS WELL ATTENDED THIS YEAR, WITH A GOOD TURNOUT FROM THE LOCAL CHILEAN COMMUNITY AND MOST OF THE EMBASSY STAFF. GUTIERREZ SPOKE EMOTIONALLY ABOUT WHAT HAS TRANSPIRED IN CHILE, BUT WITHOUT CRITICISM OF THE MILITARY JUNTA.

WHITE

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Message Attributes

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